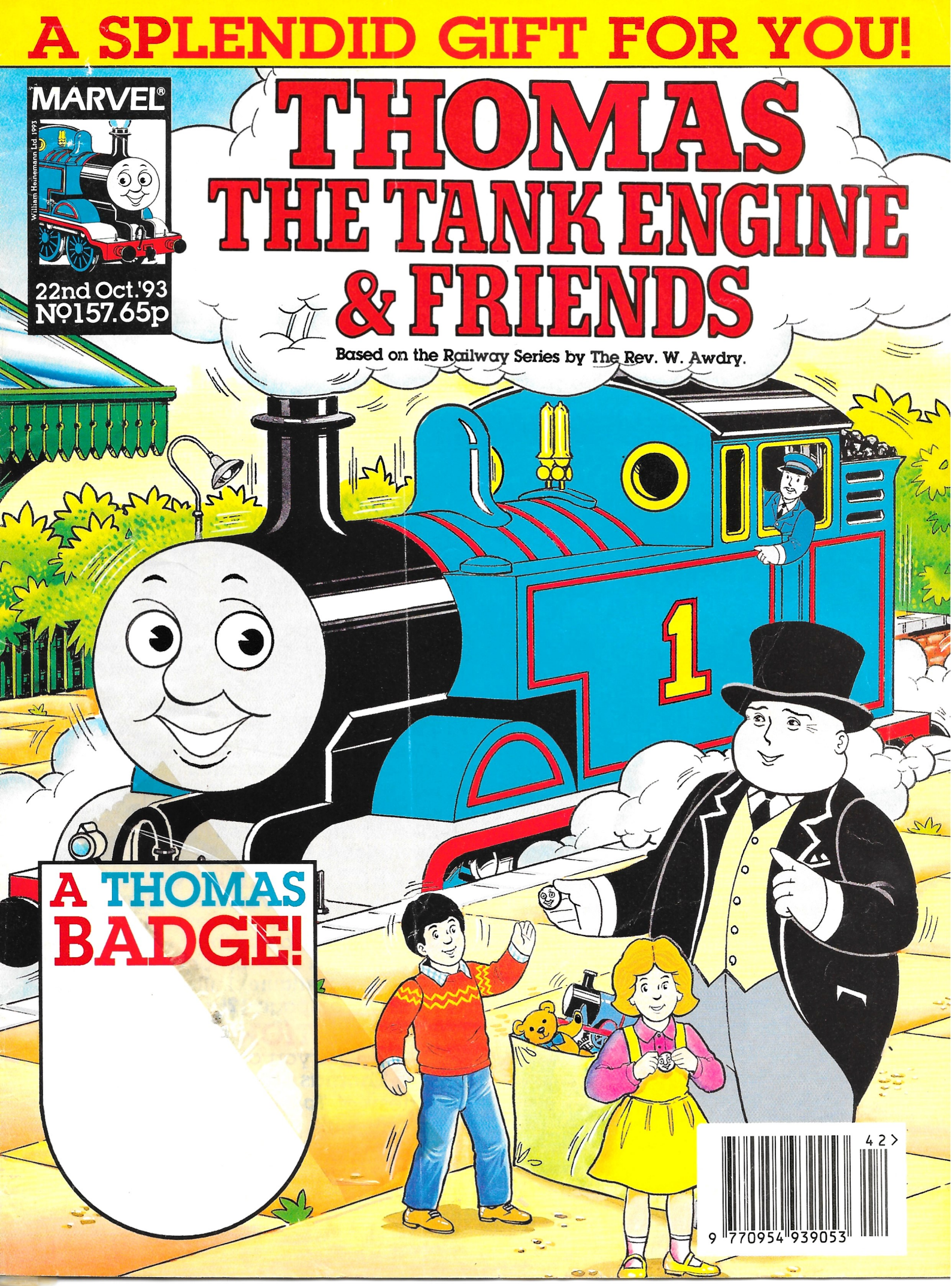
A SPLENDID GIFT FOR YOU!

MARVEL®

22nd Oct.'93
№157.65p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



A THOMAS BADGE!

42
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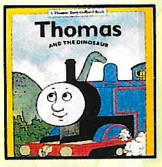
NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! The troublesome trucks have taken part in some of the most exciting adventures on the Fat Controller's Railway! It is hard to imagine how our mischievous friends have any time to work as hard as they do! Percy soon discovers how troublesome the trucks can be in our first story. In our second story, Percy doesn't want to go over the new viaduct! Peep! Peep!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!



Turn to page **7** for another chance to win some bright and colourful **Thomas Picture Books**, courtesy of ***Reed International Books!***

A SPECIAL GIFT FOR YOU!

We hope you like your new **Thomas Badge!** Don't miss our next issue **(158)** of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for your **FREE Plasticine.** Full details are on page **12!**

COMPETITION NEXT ISSUE!

In issue 158, you can also win a **Thomas Train Set** courtesy of ***Tomy Trains!*** Don't miss it!

How to obtain your Fat Controller's Card!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card** send one red, yellow and blue token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: **The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.**

Name .....

Address .....

.....

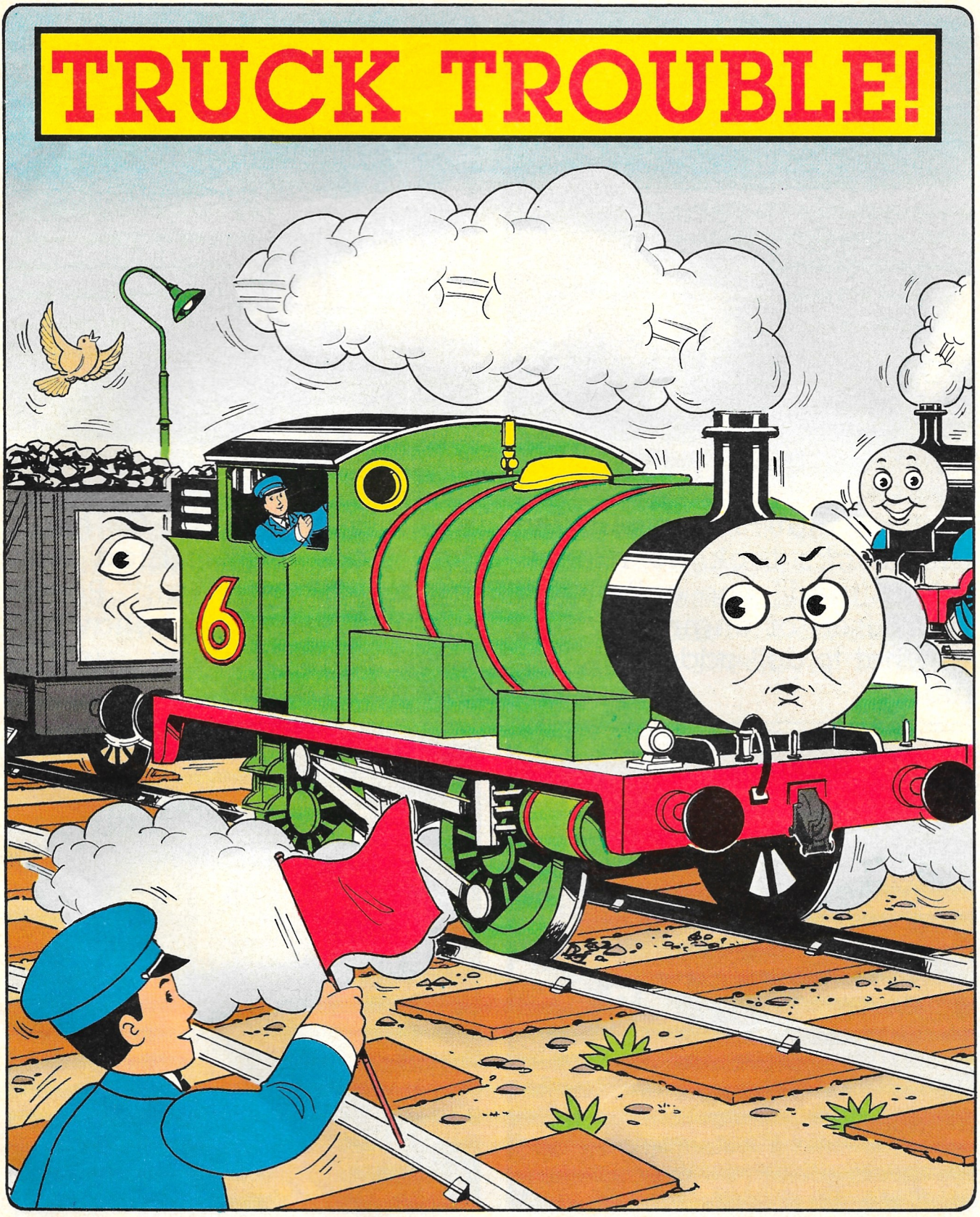
Age .....

Postcode .....

THOMAS TOKEN

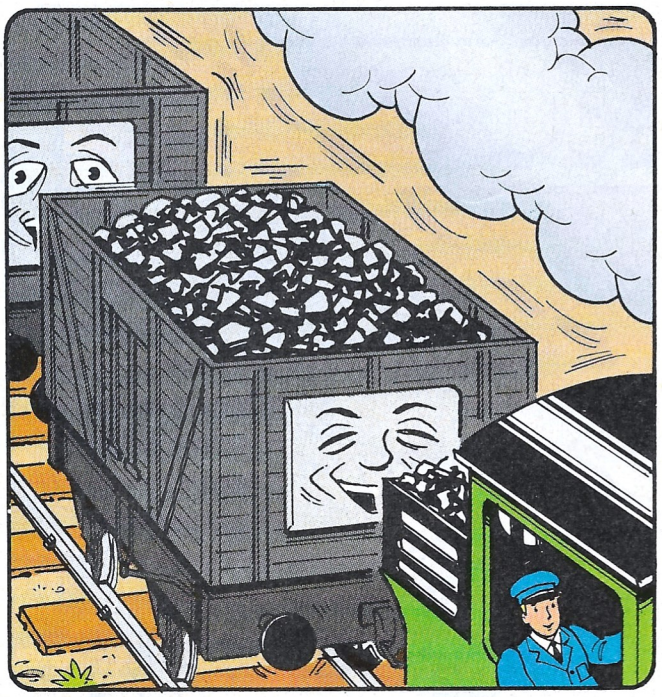
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD.** Jim Galton, Chairman, Vincent Conran, Managing Director, Paul Neary, Editorial Director, Office of Publication: 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2 3DX. All **THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS** material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandise rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd exclusively worldwide. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by IPC Marketforce, Independent Publishers Group, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE 9LS. Tel. 071 261 6061 ISSN 0954-9390.

TRUCK TROUBLE!

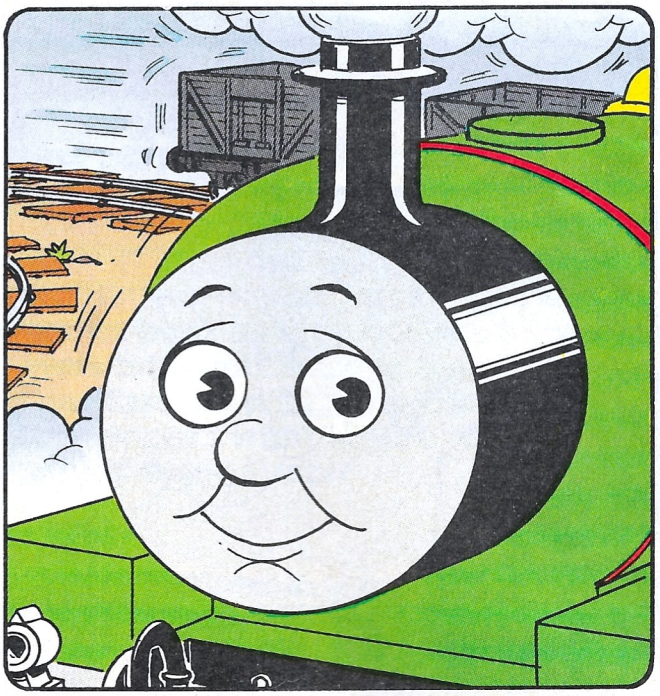


1. The engines on the Fat Controller's railway are always busy. But there is lots of work for all the trucks too, carrying coal, slate and other supplies.

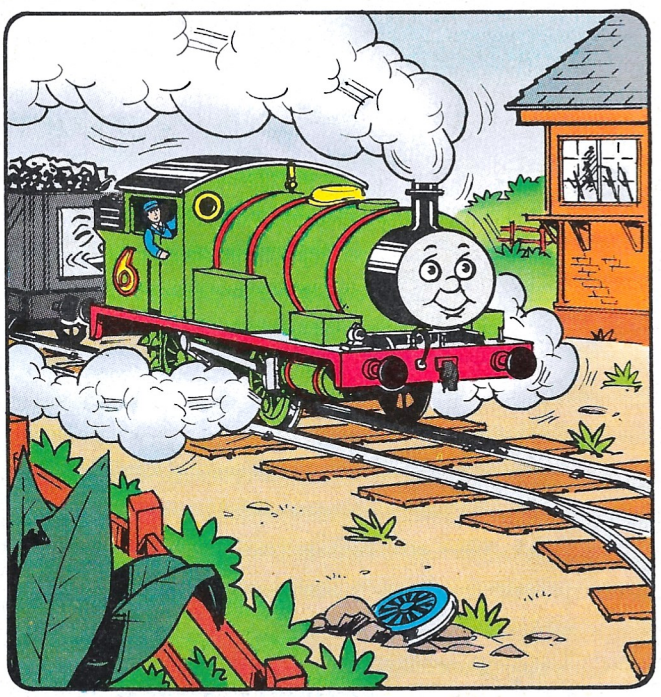
2. One morning, Percy was shunting trucks in the Main Station Yard. They were being troublesome. The trucks clattered about and kept on bumping Percy.



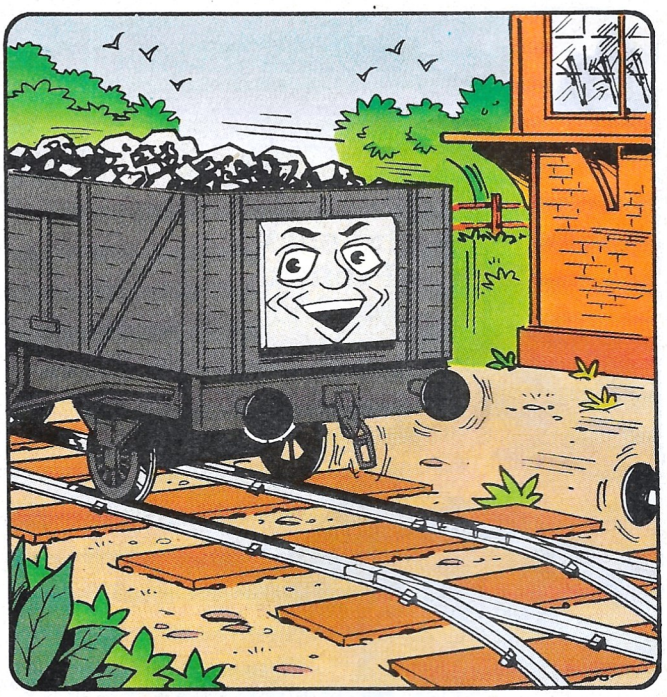
3. "Stop that!" he fumed, but the trucks took no notice. "We're tired!" one called out. "Yes, tired of engines telling us what to do!" added another rudely.



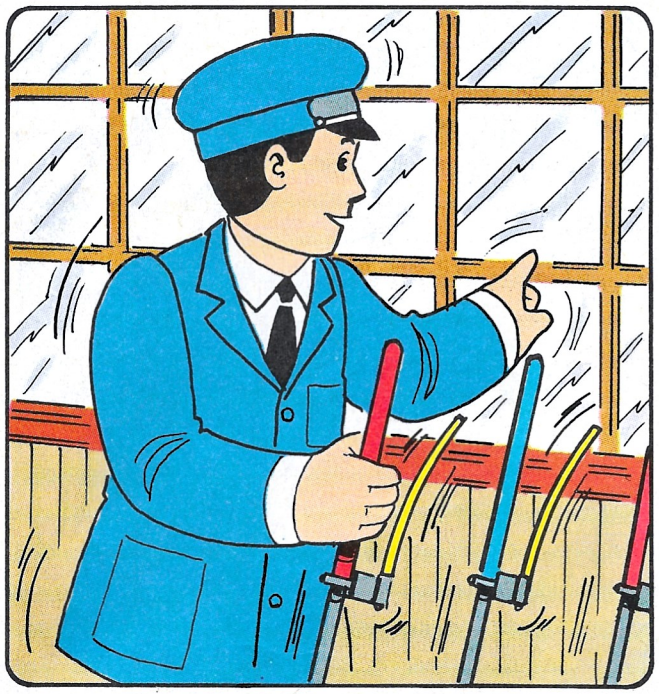
4. "Do this, do that! Go here, go there!" grumbled the trucks. "It's not fair!" Percy ignored their bad behaviour and pulled them firmly towards a siding.



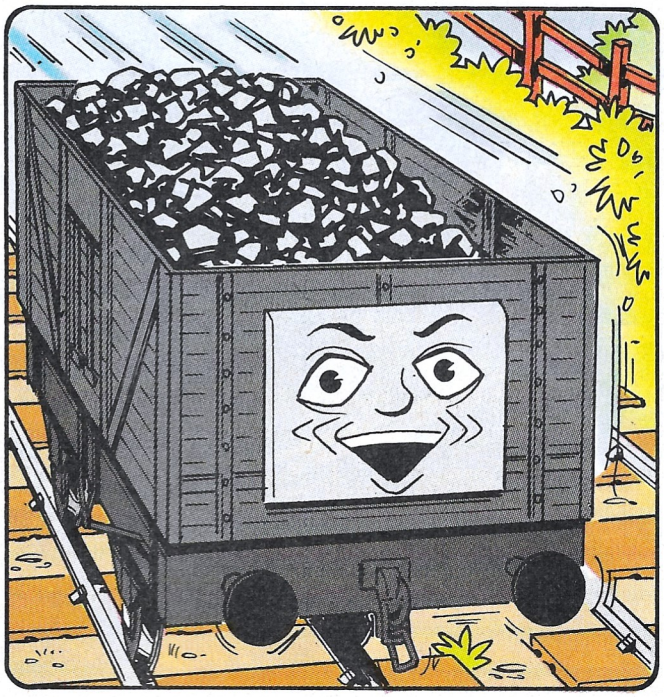
5. When Percy approached a junction, a signalman quickly changed the points to allow Percy to steam on to a different line. The last truck had a naughty idea.



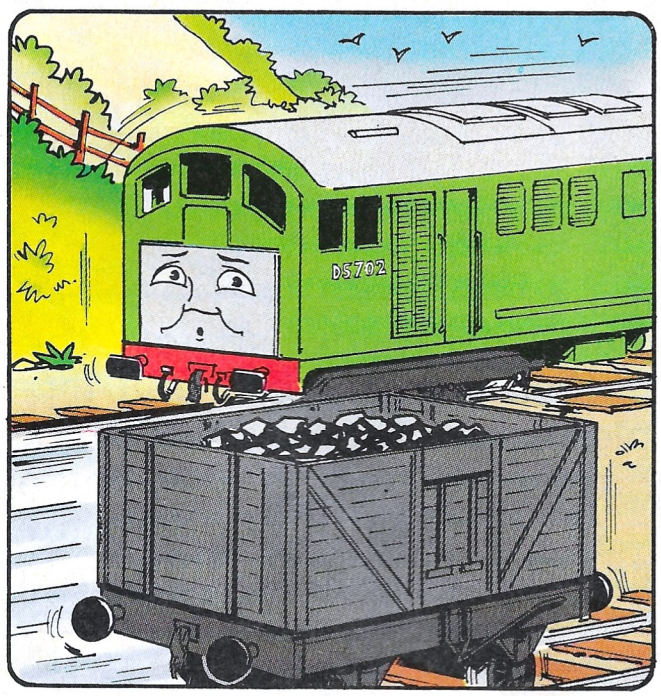
6. As Percy rolled over the junction, the truck gave a very hard jolt. Suddenly there was a bang and its coupling snapped. "I'm free! I'm free!" cried the truck.



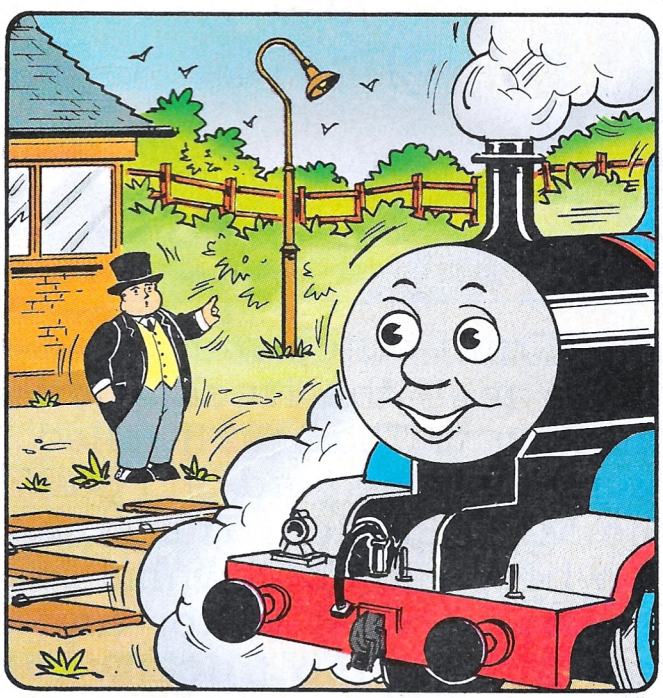
7. Percy and the other trucks entered the siding. The signalman did not spot the last truck had been left behind. He changed the points back again.



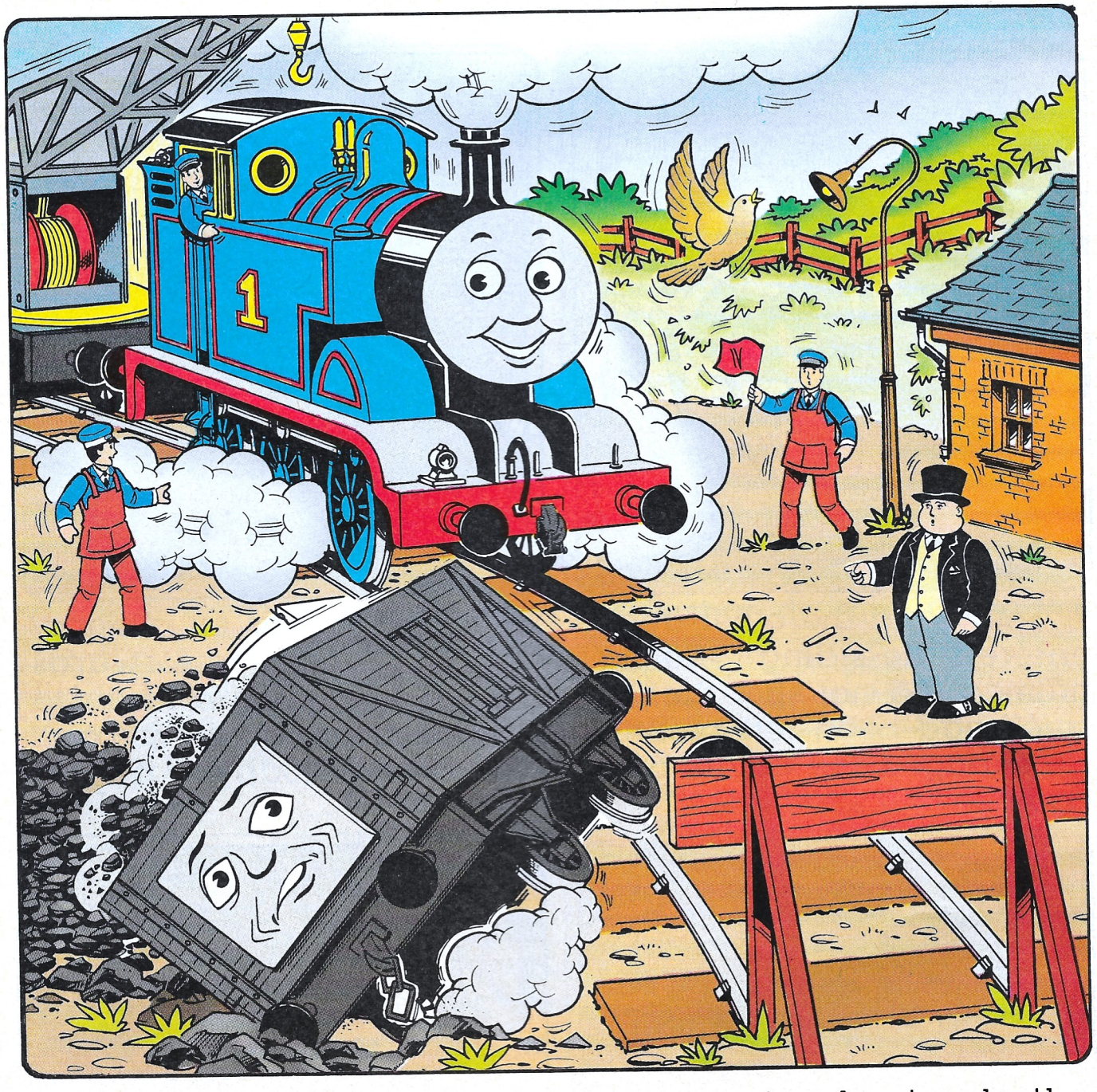
8. The truck was on a slope. Slowly, it rumbled forwards over the junction and on to another track, all on its own. "Goodbye! Goodbye!" it sang happily.



9. The truck was enjoying running away. It saw Boco returning from the Big Harbour. Imagine Boco's surprise as the truck went by, without an engine.



10. "Make way! Make way!" sang the truck. "Who needs engines!" Percy's driver alerted the Fat Controller who sent Thomas to fetch the truck.



11. "Can't catch me! Can't catch me!" the truck cried cheekily to Thomas. It rolled on through the yard and past the Main Station. Then the line began to go downhill so the truck went faster and faster. Now the truck was very worried. It could see some buffers up ahead. "I can't stop! I can't stop!" it cried.

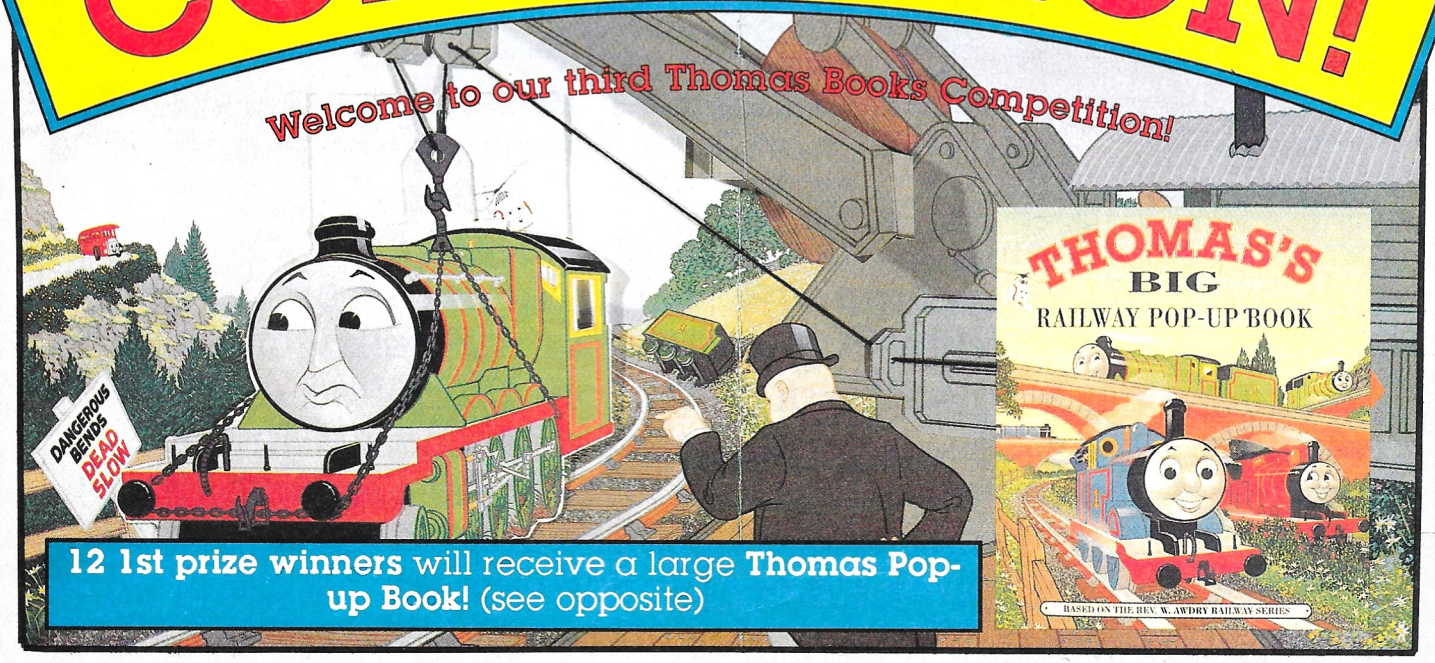
12. The truck struck the buffers with a crash and toppled over. Thomas saw what happened and went to fetch a crane to lift it back on the line again. "Trucks don't run on their own," said Thomas. "They need engines with brakes to stop them." "I know that now," said the truck. "I won't run away again. Crashes are too painful!"

THE END

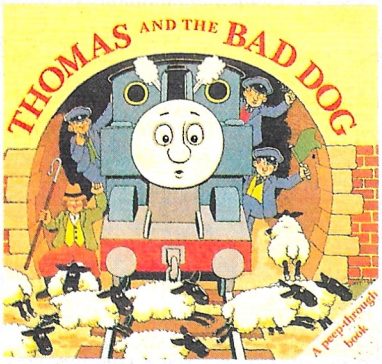
In our next issue: All steamed up!

COMPETITION!

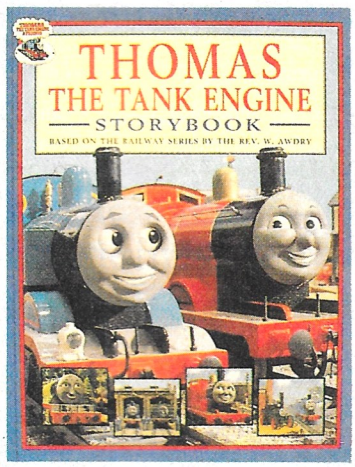
Welcome to our third Thomas Books Competition!



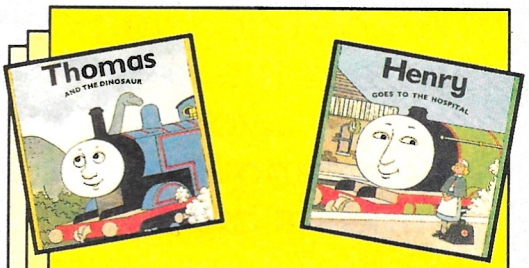
12 1st prize winners will receive a large **Thomas Pop-up Book!** (see opposite)



Our second **12 prize winners** will receive a **Thomas Peep-through** book! (above)



12 3rd prize receive a **TV Story Book!** (above)



24 lucky **4th prize winners** will receive an **Easy to Read** book, either *"Thomas and the Dinosaur"* or *"Henry goes to Hospital"*. (above)

To win one of these exciting books simply answer the following question: The Fat Controller's grandchildren are called _ _ _ _ _ _ _ and _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _! Send your answers on a postcard along with your name and address to: *Thomas/Reed Books Competition, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London, WC2 3DX. Closing date: 5th November 1993!*

Rules: This competition is open to readers other than employees and their families of The Children's Division; Reed International Books., and Marvel Comics Ltd. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

MONKEY BUSINESS!

Each day, when Thomas pulls the morning passenger train along his branch line, he passes an animal care centre. The staff at the centre look after all sorts of animals that have nowhere else to live. There was a donkey, some rabbits, a pig, ducks and even a monkey called 'Mickey'.

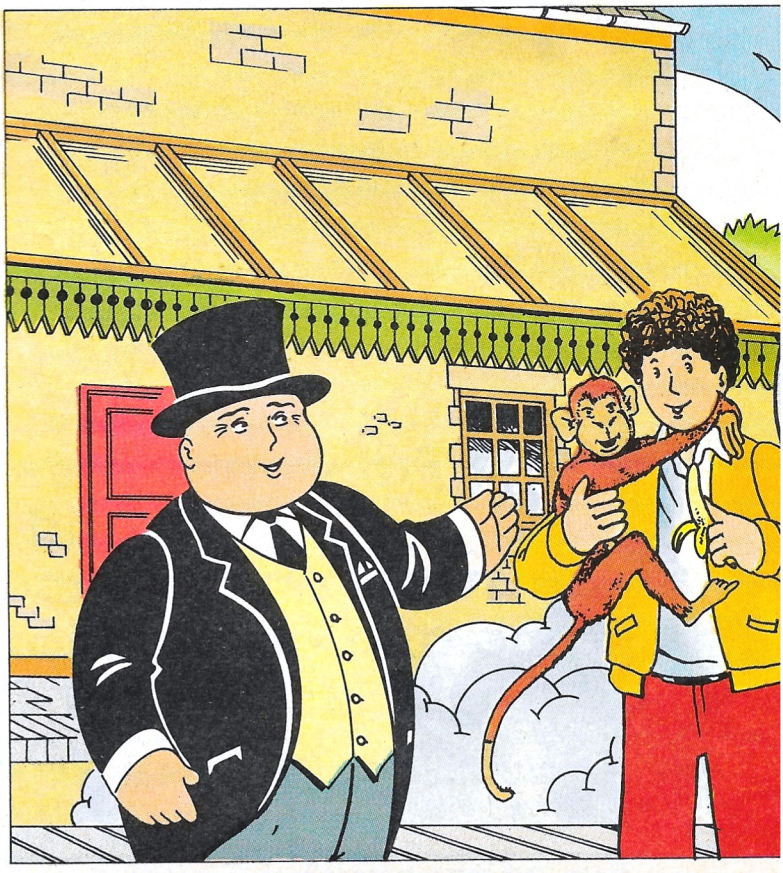
Thomas often had to wait at a level-crossing on the line near the centre. Then he would watch the monkey leaping happily around its big cage.

One morning, as Thomas pulled up by the crossing, he noticed Mickey's cage door was open and Mickey was nowhere to be seen. Thomas and his driver were puzzled.

"Mickey's escaped!" called the man in charge of the centre.

The crossing gates opened for Thomas so he had to puff on his way again. Thomas was worried about Mickey. "He's only safe at the animal centre!" he thought.

Minutes later Thomas chuffed into Wellsworth Station. He pulled up to let passengers board Annie and Clarabel. A lady came walking along the platform, wearing a hat with lots of fruit on it. Of course, the fruit was not real. Suddenly, something leaped from Annie's roof and snatched the lady's hat. She called the Stationmaster.

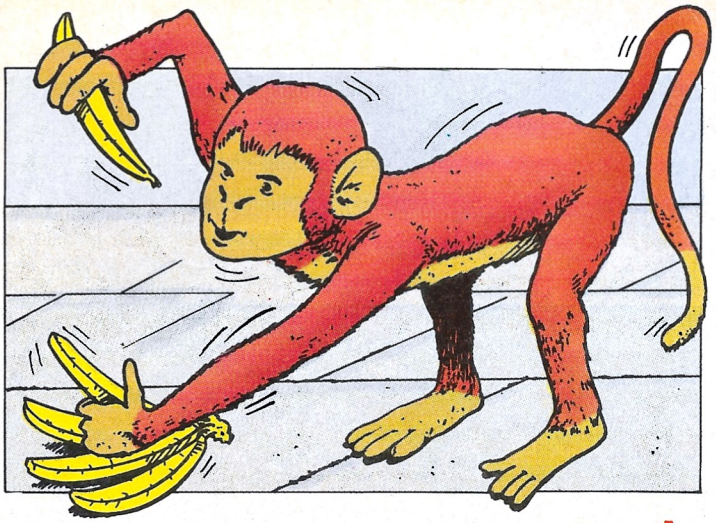


"Whoever would steal your hat?" he said.

Thomas overheard. "I wonder if it's Mickey!" he said to his driver. Then Thomas spotted the monkey on the platform roof. Mickey had climbed up there with the hat. He was pulling all the fruit off the hat.

"I'm sure Mickey thinks the fruit on it is real!" said Thomas.

Thomas's driver went with the Stationmaster to his office and rang the man in charge of the animal centre. The man told them what fruit Mickey liked.



monkey

The driver hurried to a greengrocer's shop near the station and bought some banana's. He quickly returned and put them on the platform, below Mickey. The Monkey climbed down to eat them.

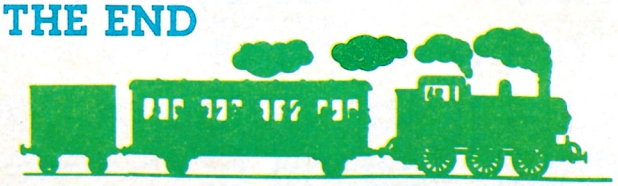
Soon his owner arrived and Mickey jumped eagerly into his arms to be taken home. The man offered to buy the lady a new hat.

"It was only an old hat," she said kindly. "I'm pleased it helped the monkey to be rescued!"

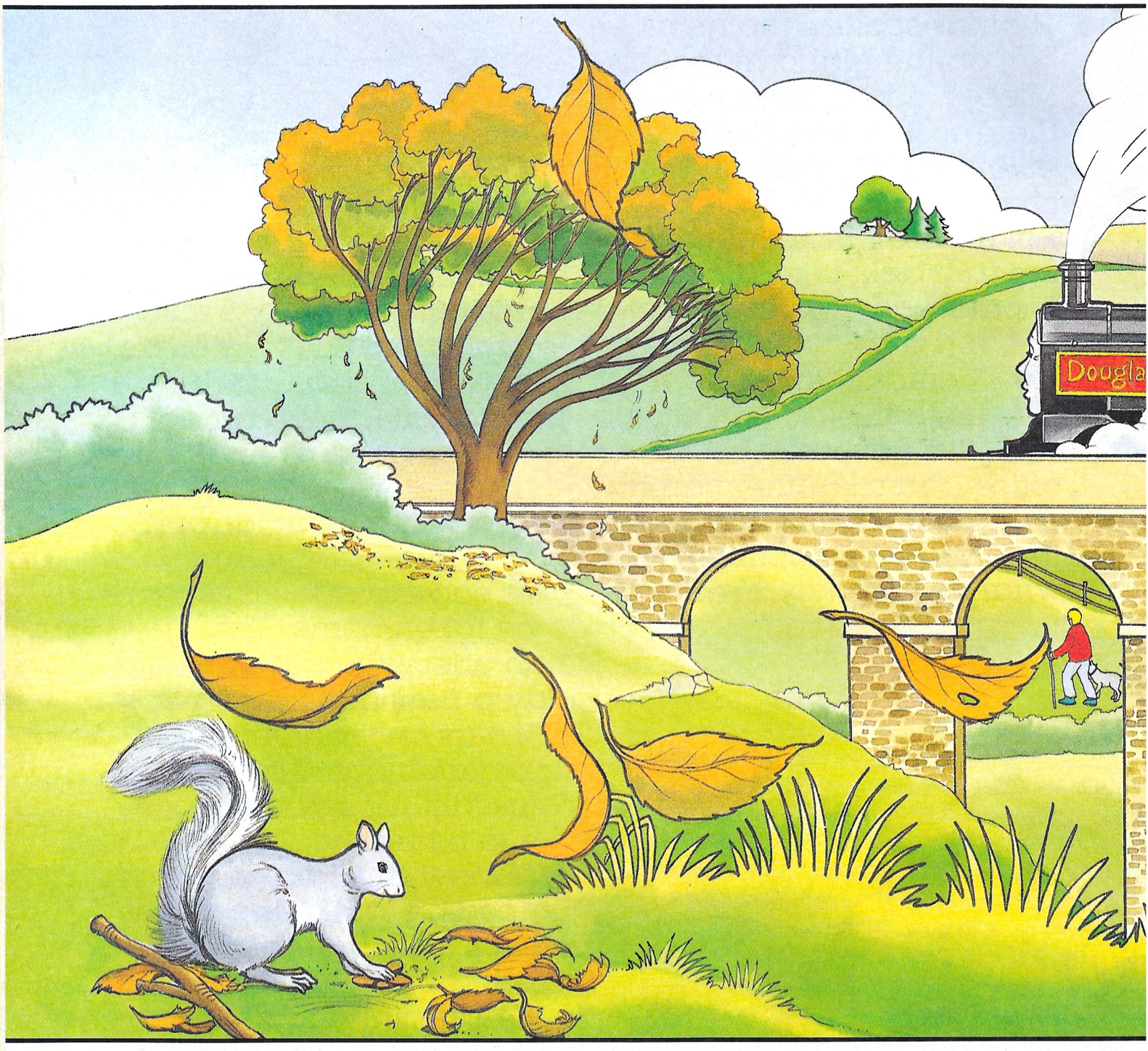
"Mickey must have jumped on to Annie's roof while I waited at the level-crossing," said Thomas.

"He certainly made a monkey out of us!" laughed Thomas's driver.

THE END



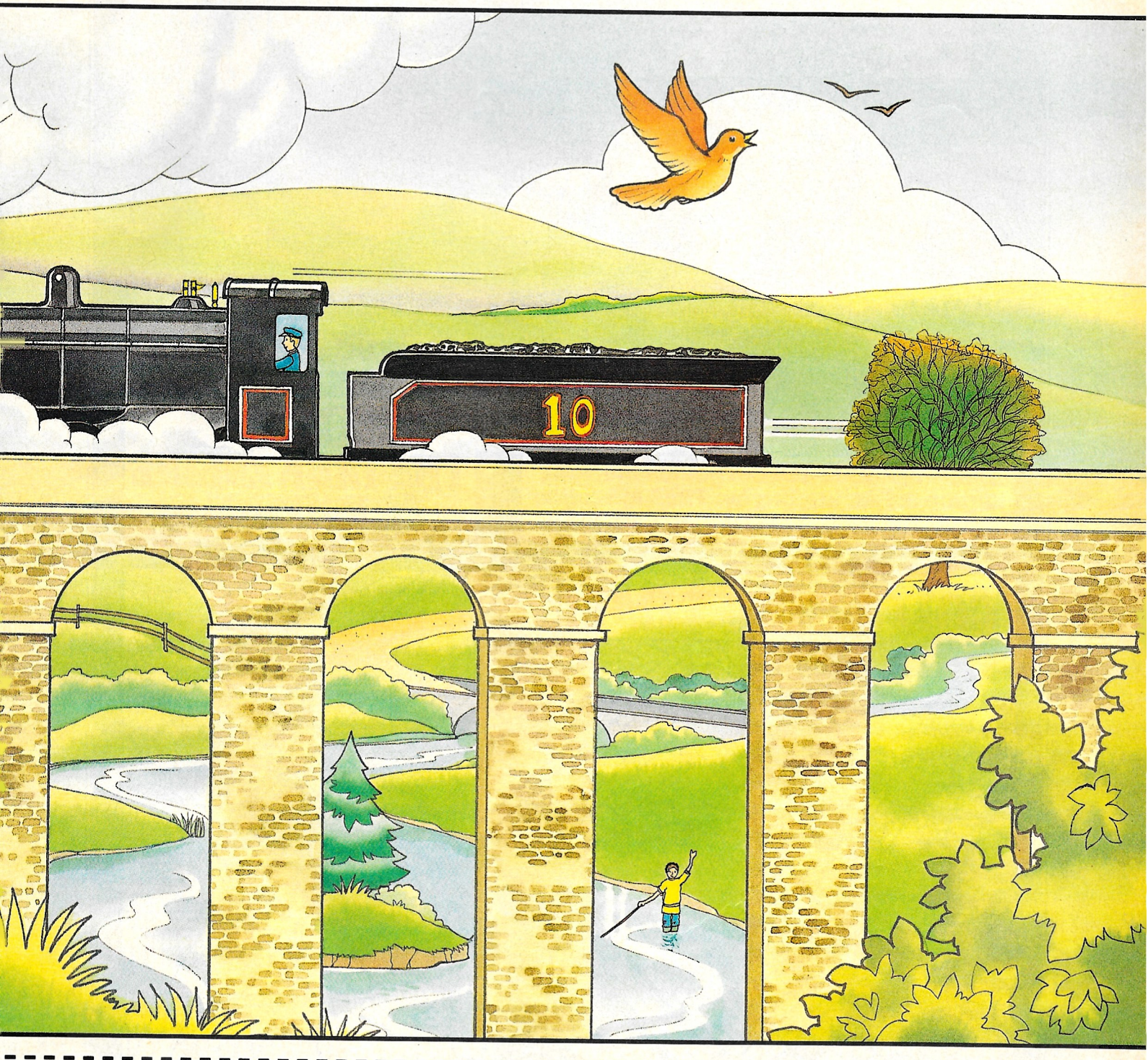
Over the b



Which engine can you see?
What number is he?
What is the name of Douglas's twin?
Which season of the year is it?

What colou
How many
Point to the
What colou

ig viaduct!



are the falling leaves?
irds can you count?
quirrel!
is he?

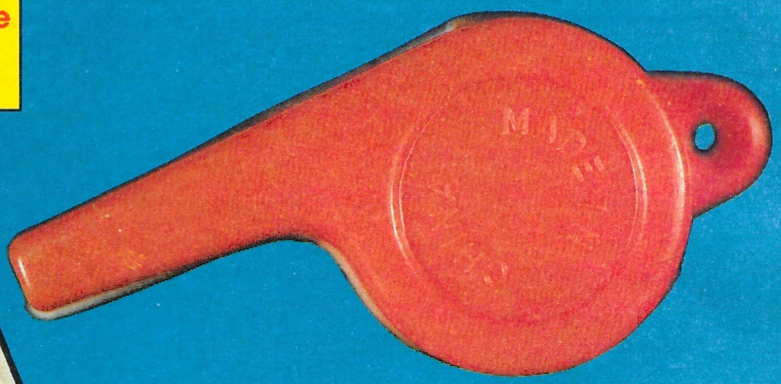
Note to parents:
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all around the room!

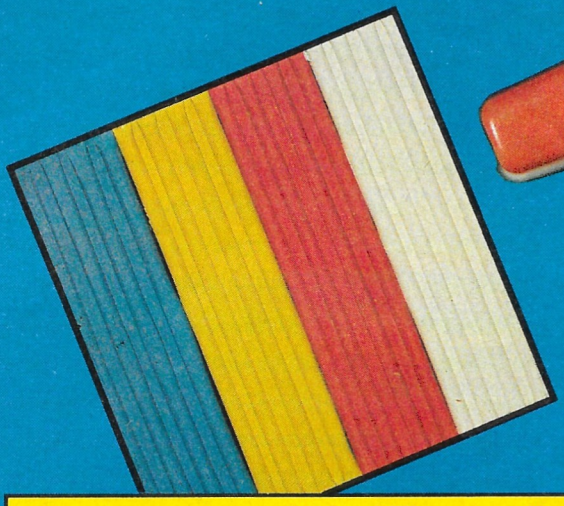
In our next issue: Fireworks!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Look what's coming your way!

A splendid **Thomas Whistle** with issue **159**, on sale **November 6th 1993!**



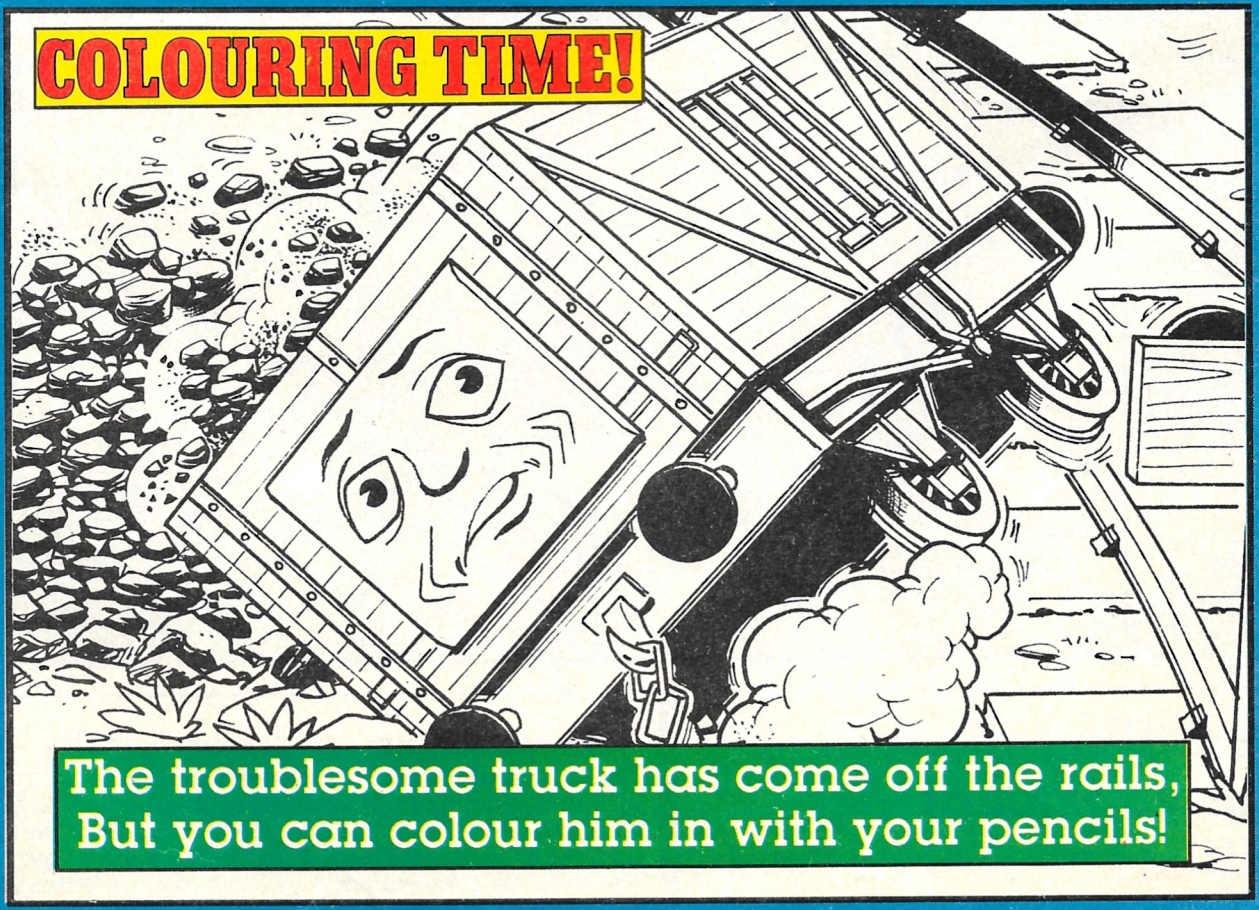


splendid gifts with....

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Don't miss issue **158** of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for your **FREE Plasticine**! Issue **158** is on sale **October 23rd 1993!**

COLOURING TIME!



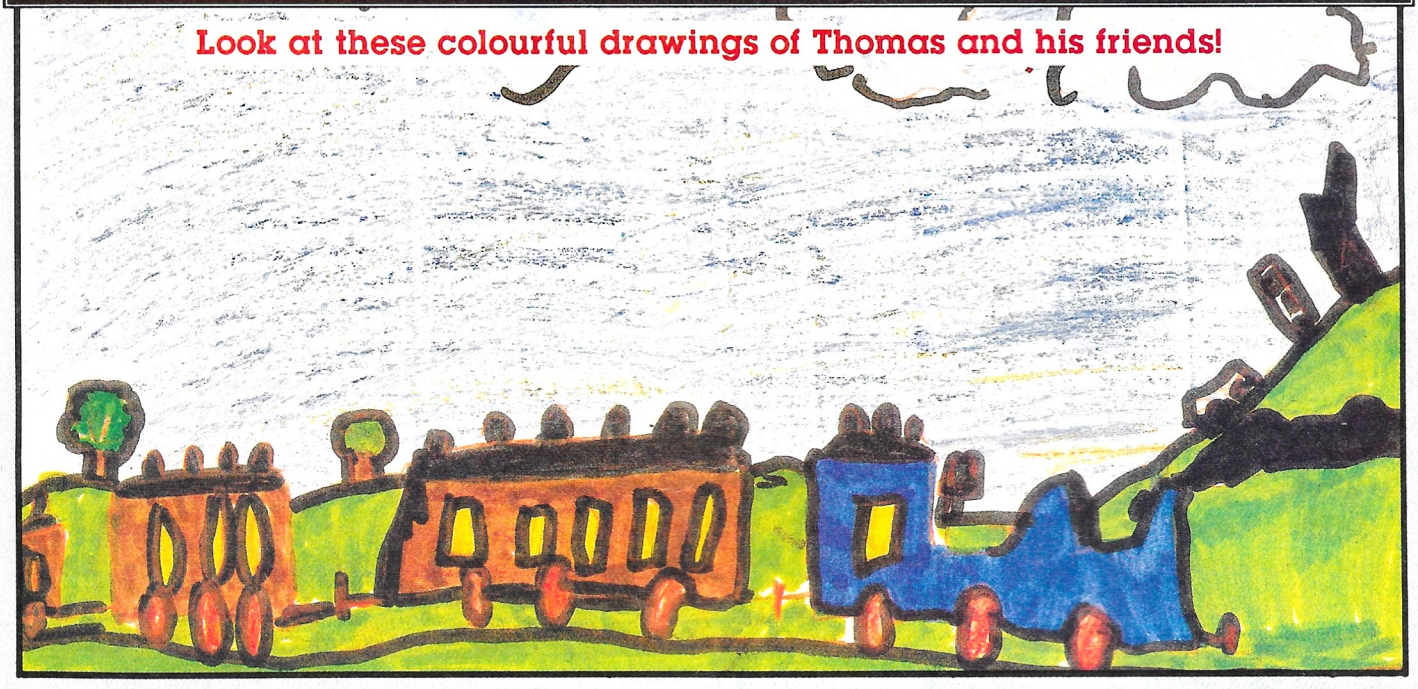
The troublesome truck has come off the rails, But you can colour him in with your pencils!

JOIN THE DOTS!

**Four big whirly arms greet Thomas on his way,
Now join the dots to find out what he passes every day!**

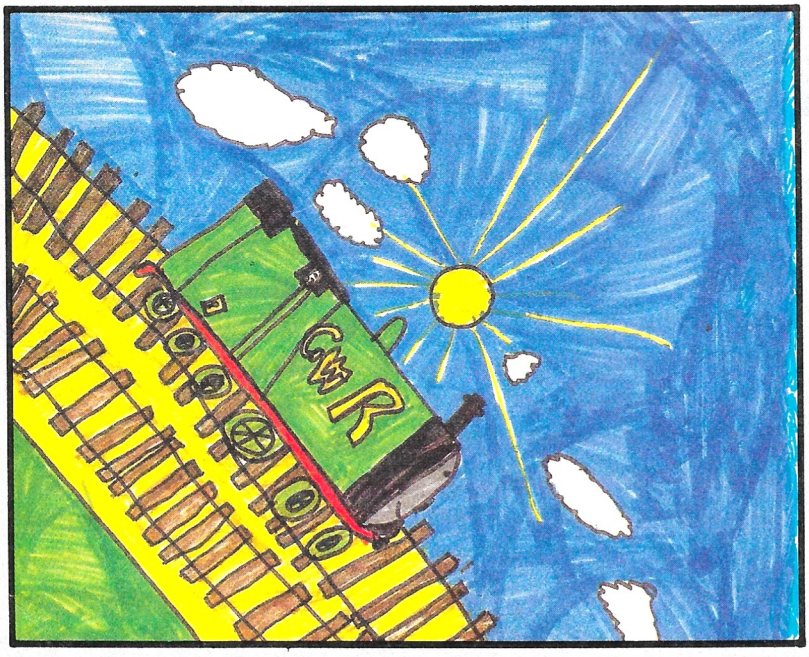
THE FAT CONTROLLER'S PICTURES PAGE!

Look at these colourful drawings of Thomas and his friends!



Here is a picture of **Thomas** and **Annie** and **Clarabel** on the branch line. Our special greetings go out to *Gary Tapfield* from Essex.

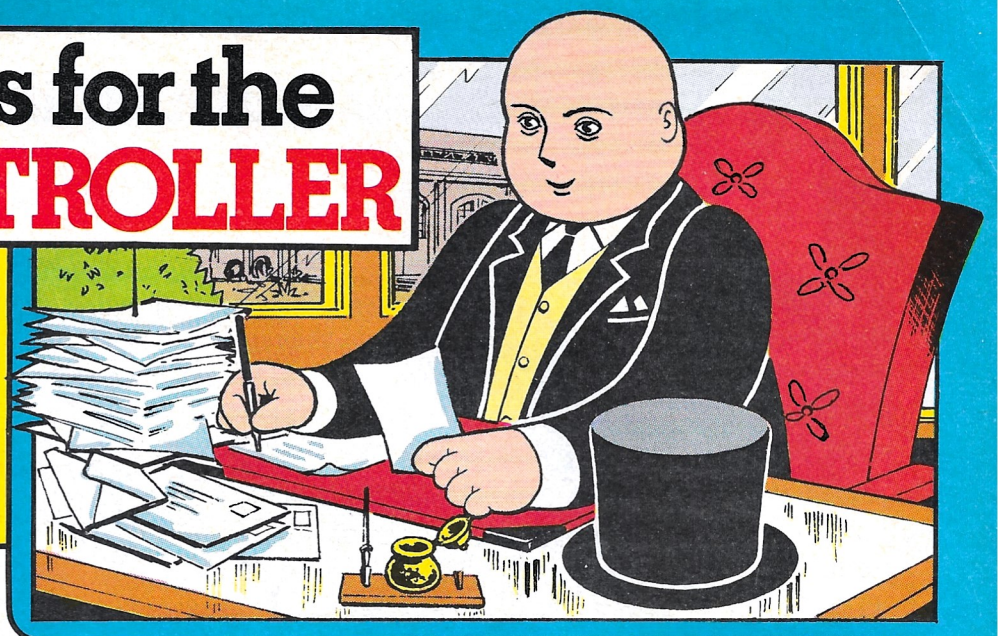
Duck is a **Great Western Pannier Engine**. *Richard Folkes*, aged 8, has sent us this bright crayon drawing of **Duck** on **Gordon's Hill**. Well done!



Rachel Goodwin, from *Gloucester*, has sent in a splendid drawing of me! Thank you very much indeed!

Thank you all for sending in your pictures! We are sorry that we can only print a few. If you would like to draw a picture and have a chance of seeing it printed in a future issue, please send it to: *The Fat Controller's Pictures Page, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.*

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

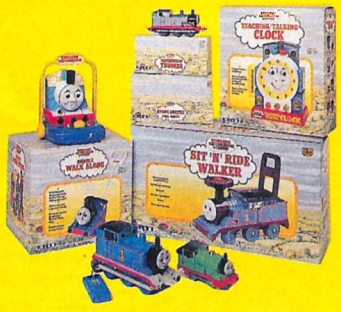
Dear Fat Controller,
I love **Harold the Helicopter**. When I go on holiday to see my Granny and Grandpa in the Isles of Scilly, I always fly there by helicopter. It goes very high and makes lots of noise like Harold!

Love from **Jack Chisholm** aged 3.

It sounds as though you fly on a very helpful helicopter, especially if it's as reliable as Harold! I believe that Harold has helped me to run an even more efficient railway!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win some splendid **Thomas Pre-school** toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*



FAVOURITE STORIES!

Dear Fat Controller,
My name is Liam. I am in hospital at the moment because I have had a foot operation but I have been reading my favourite story **"Duck and the Pirates"**. It has really cheered me up!

Love from **Liam**, aged 4.

*Upon my soul! Duck thought that he had seen real pirates by the caves. But our special guests had only dressed in pirate costumes for the grand opening of the **'pirate caves'**! I hope your foot is better now!*

RAILWAY COTTAGE !

Dear Fat Controller,
I see Really Useful Steam engines every day from my Nanna's garden. They live at the *Great Central Railway*. When the engines go past, they always give me a Peep! Peep!

Love from **Jordan Taylor**, aged 2.

Goodness me! It must be splendid to live by a pretty railway! My own cottage is situated near Thomas's branch line!

BIRTHDAYS!

Stuart Storar, Ben Reynolds, Martin Jackson, Thomas Bott, Matthew Brown, James Burman, Scott Ryan Lee, Grant Curtis Lee, paul Newell, Emma Lee, Jonathan Berry, Matthew Burgess Jennifer Cartwright and Bradley Rigg.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a post-card at least **nine weeks** in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

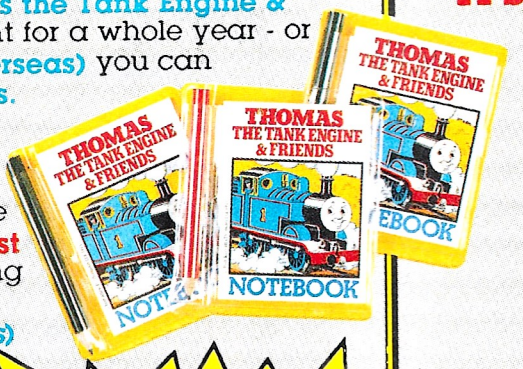
The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

Subscribe!

Subscribe to Thomas's very own magazine and receive a splendid diecast model of Thomas from ERTL®

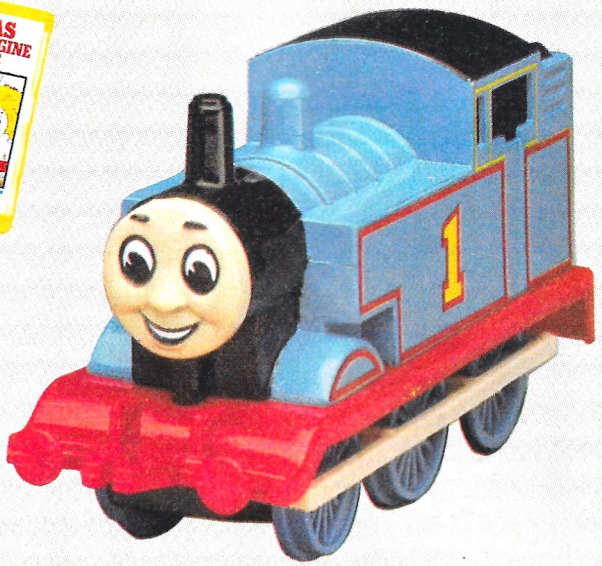
For just **£18.00 (35.00 overseas)**, your child will be sent **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight for a whole year - or for **£10.00 (£18.00 overseas)** you can subscribe for **6 months.**

Additionally, if you subscribe for a **whole year (UK subscribers only)** you will receive a **FREE Thomas diecast model** plus a charming **notebook** and **pencil** ***(see opposite pictures)*** and personalised **Fat Controller's Card** enabling you to enter offers and competitions frequently open to **Fat Controller's Card** holders. Simply fill out the appropriate form below!

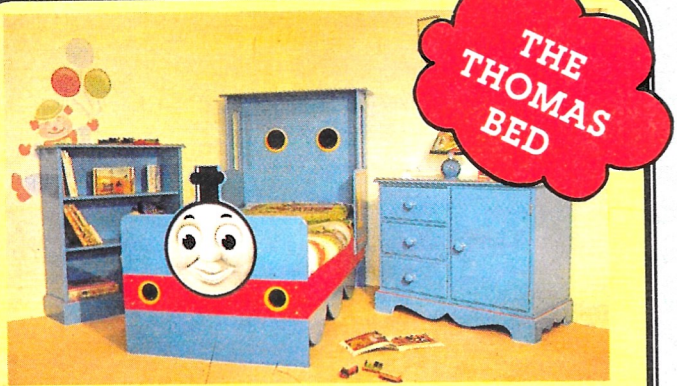


JOSHUA JONES BED DETAILS BELOW!

A SPLENDID GIFT FOR YOU!



THOMAS BED ADVERT ▼



For further information on the **Thomas the Tank Engine Bed, Bedhead** and **Toybox**, plus the complimentary blue bedroom furniture please call: **Joshua Jones Ltd 0258 858470**
or for a **FREE** colour brochure and price list please send a large stamped addressed envelope to: ***Joshua Jones Ltd, 1A Baillie Gate Ind. Est. Sturminster Marshall. Wimbourne. Dorset. BH21 4DB.***

Joshua Jones Ltd

SUBSCRIPTION FORM ▼

ORDER FORM.

6 MONTHS (13 ISSUES) ☐ **0031N**
12MONTHS (26 ISSUES) ☐ **0032S**

Please send ..... issues of **THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS** fortnightly magazine starting with the next available issue.

Child's Name.....
Address.....
.....Postcode.....
Donor's name.....
Address.....
.....Postcode.....
Date of birth.....Boy/Girl.

PAYMENT (*delete as necessary)
*1. **Cheque:** I enclose my cheque/postal order for £..... (payable to MARVEL COMICS LTD)
*2. **Credit Card:** Please charge £..... to my Access/Visa account.

My card number is (13 or 16 digits):

Expiry date.....

Signature.....Date.....

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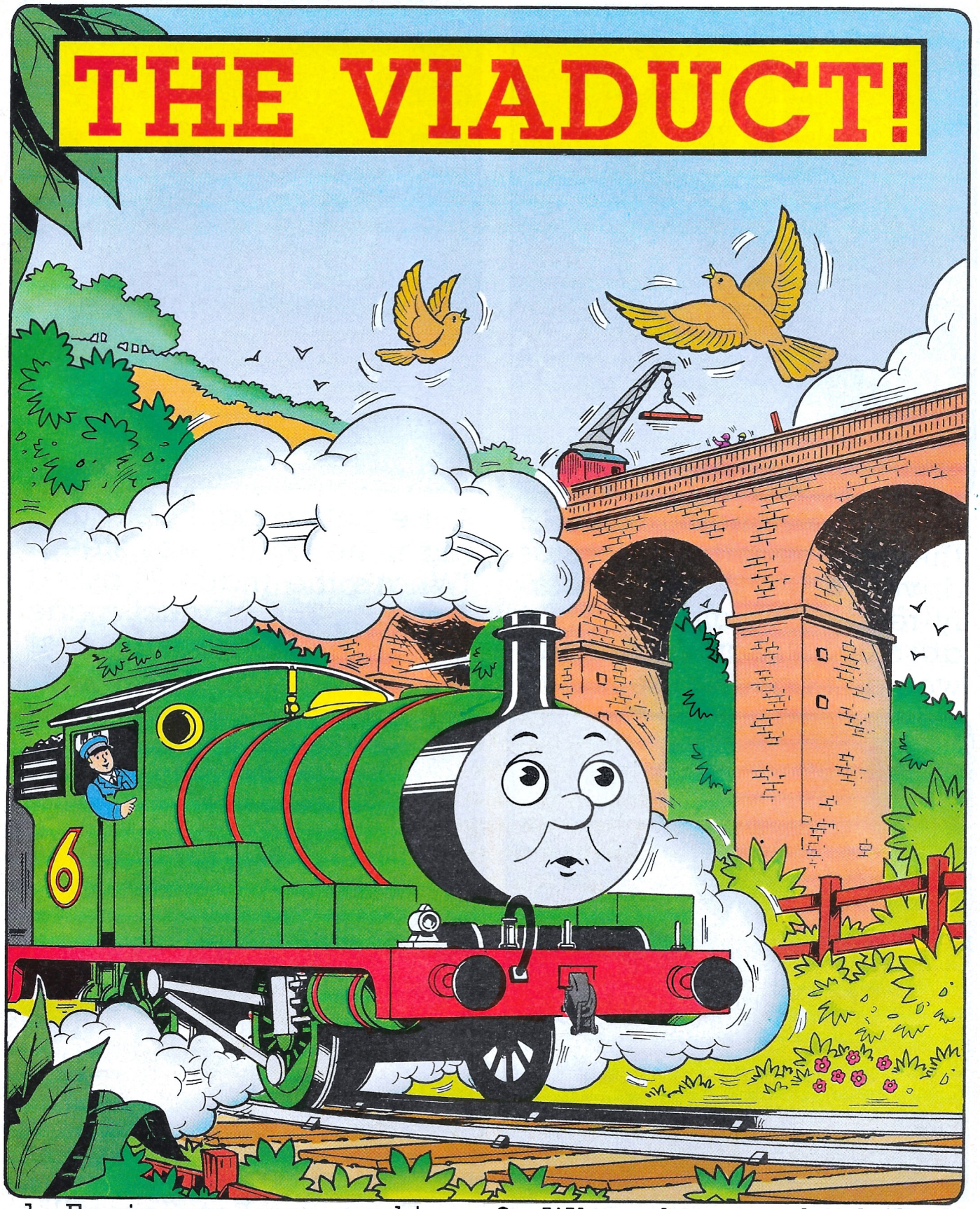
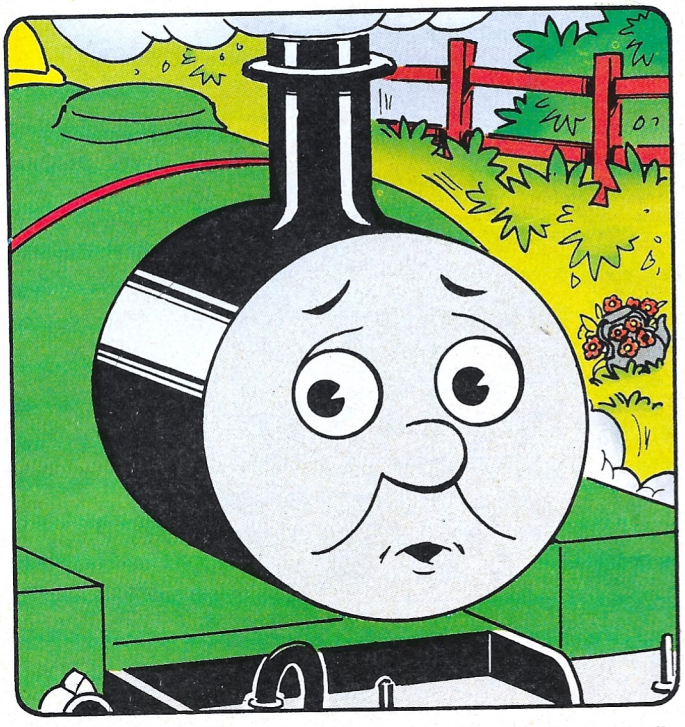
THE VIADUCT!

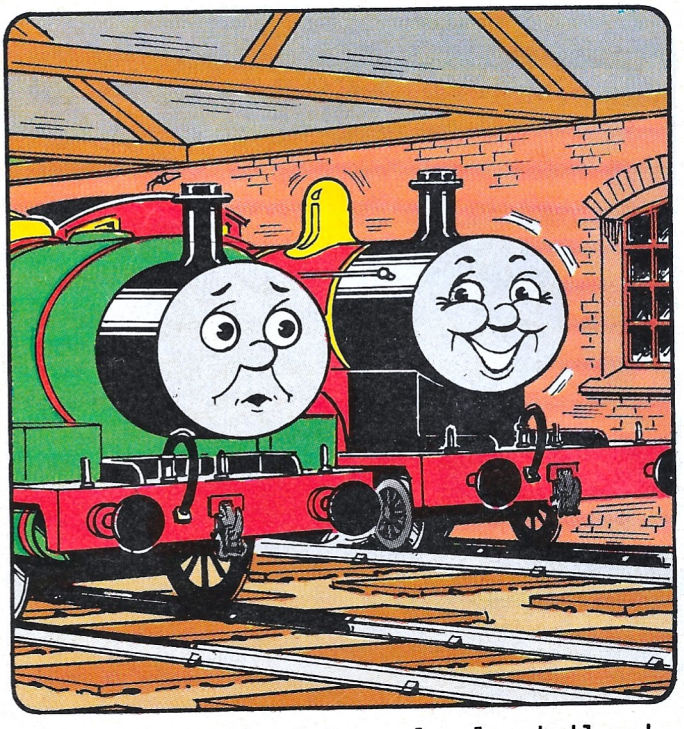


1. Engineers were working hard to reopen an old freight line. Percy was busily delivering equipment to a viaduct where workmen were laying new track.

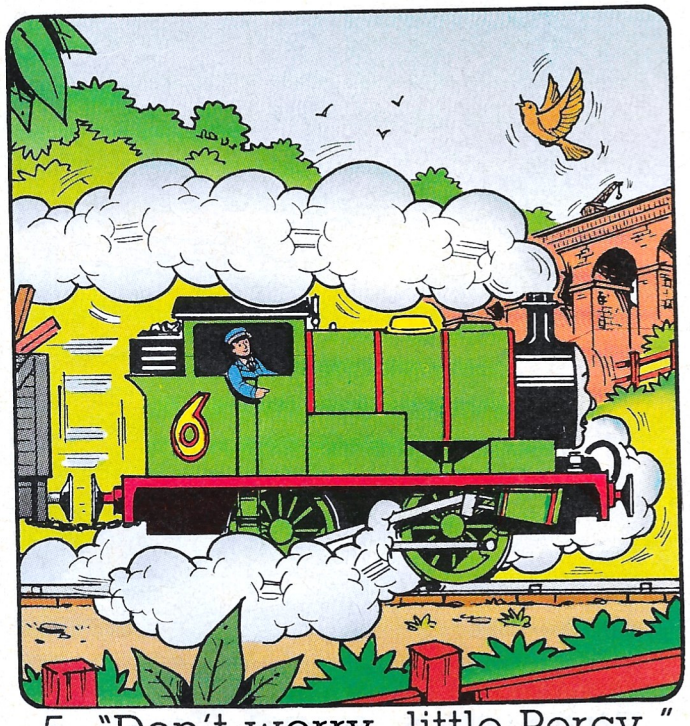
2. When he reached the viaduct with his trucks, he looked up. The viaduct was so high he felt dizzy. "They'll never get me up there." he said.



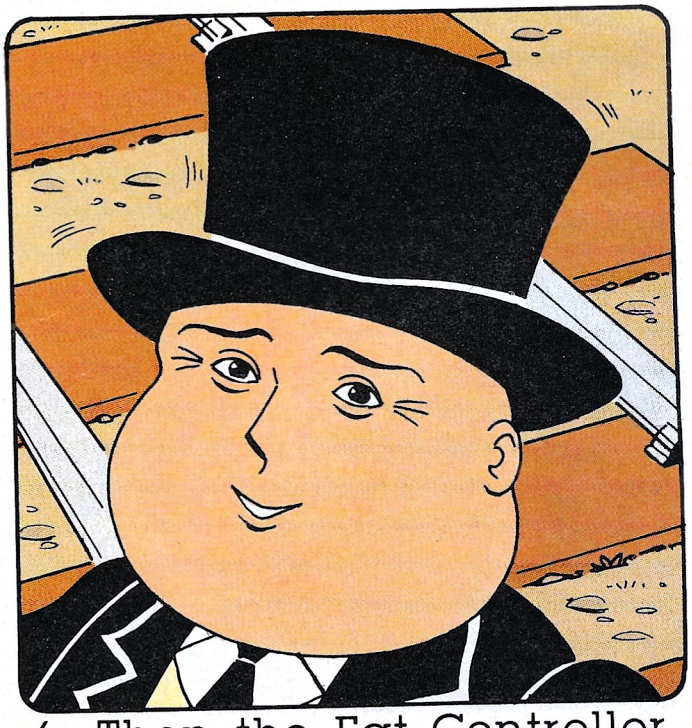
3. "We've almost finished," the engineer told Percy's driver. "The viaduct is nearly ready for trains to travel across." Percy hoped he wouldn't have to use it.



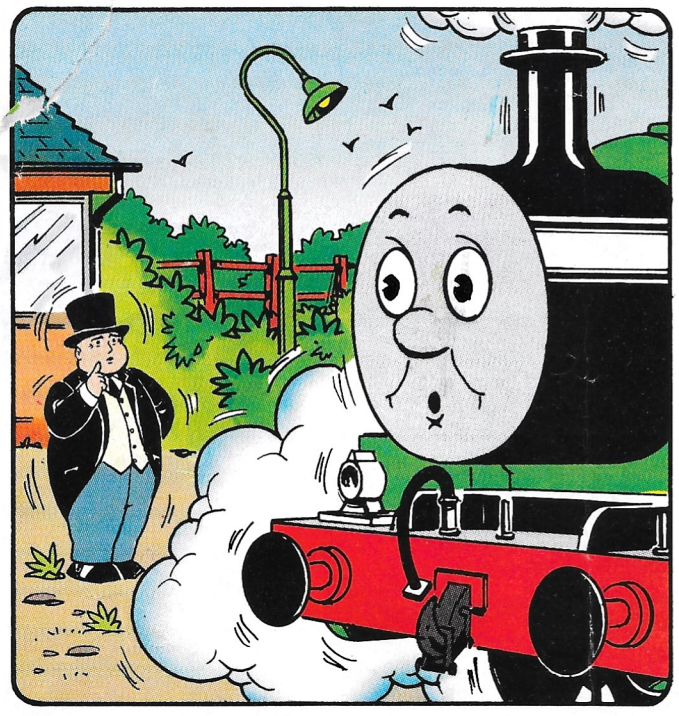
4. He puffed back, but that night he could not sleep. "What's the matter?" asked James. "The viaduct made my wheels wobble just looking at it," said Percy.



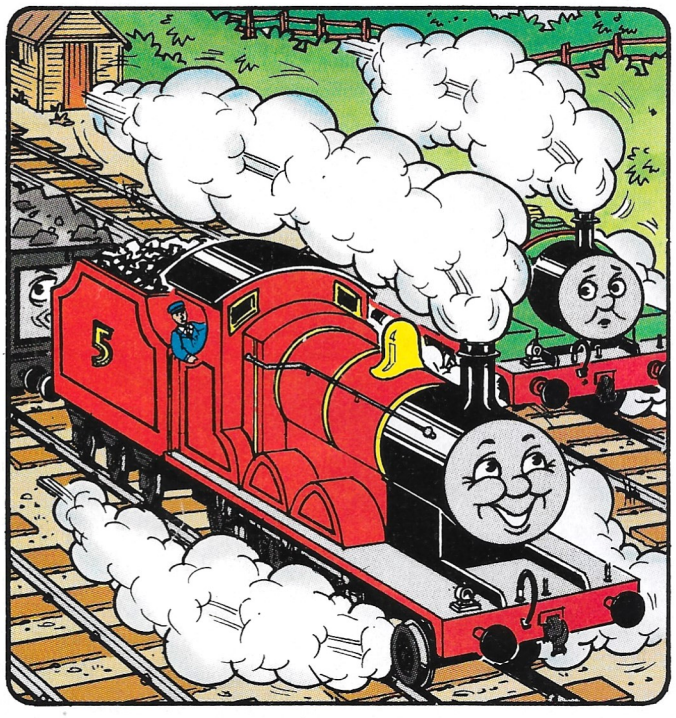
5. "Don't worry, little Percy," said James. "It's perfectly safe!" Next morning, Percy carried more equipment to the viaduct. At last the repairs were complete.



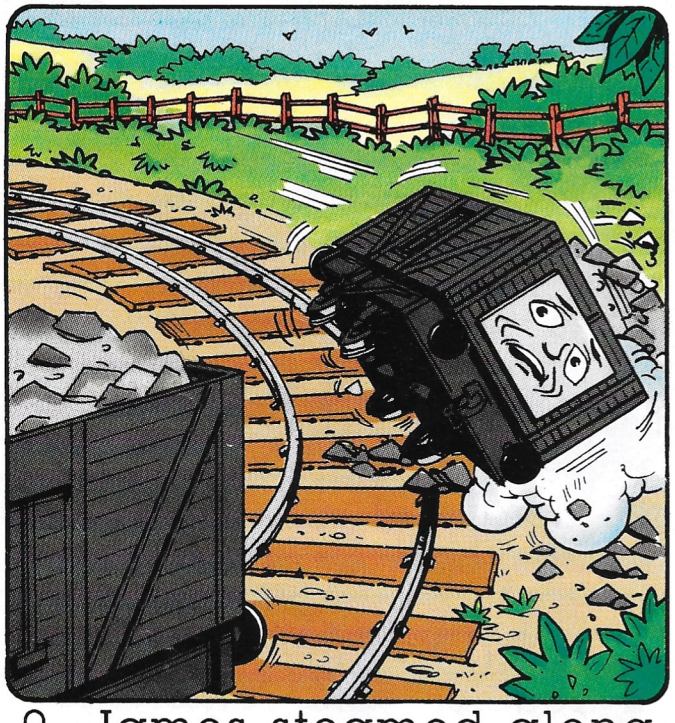
6. Then the Fat Controller declared the line open. "It's only fair Percy should have the honour of pulling the first freight train over the viaduct!" he said.



7. "Oh no, Sir!" replied Percy anxiously. "I just mean, shouldn't a splendid red engine like James go first?" The Fat Controller was puzzled but he agreed.

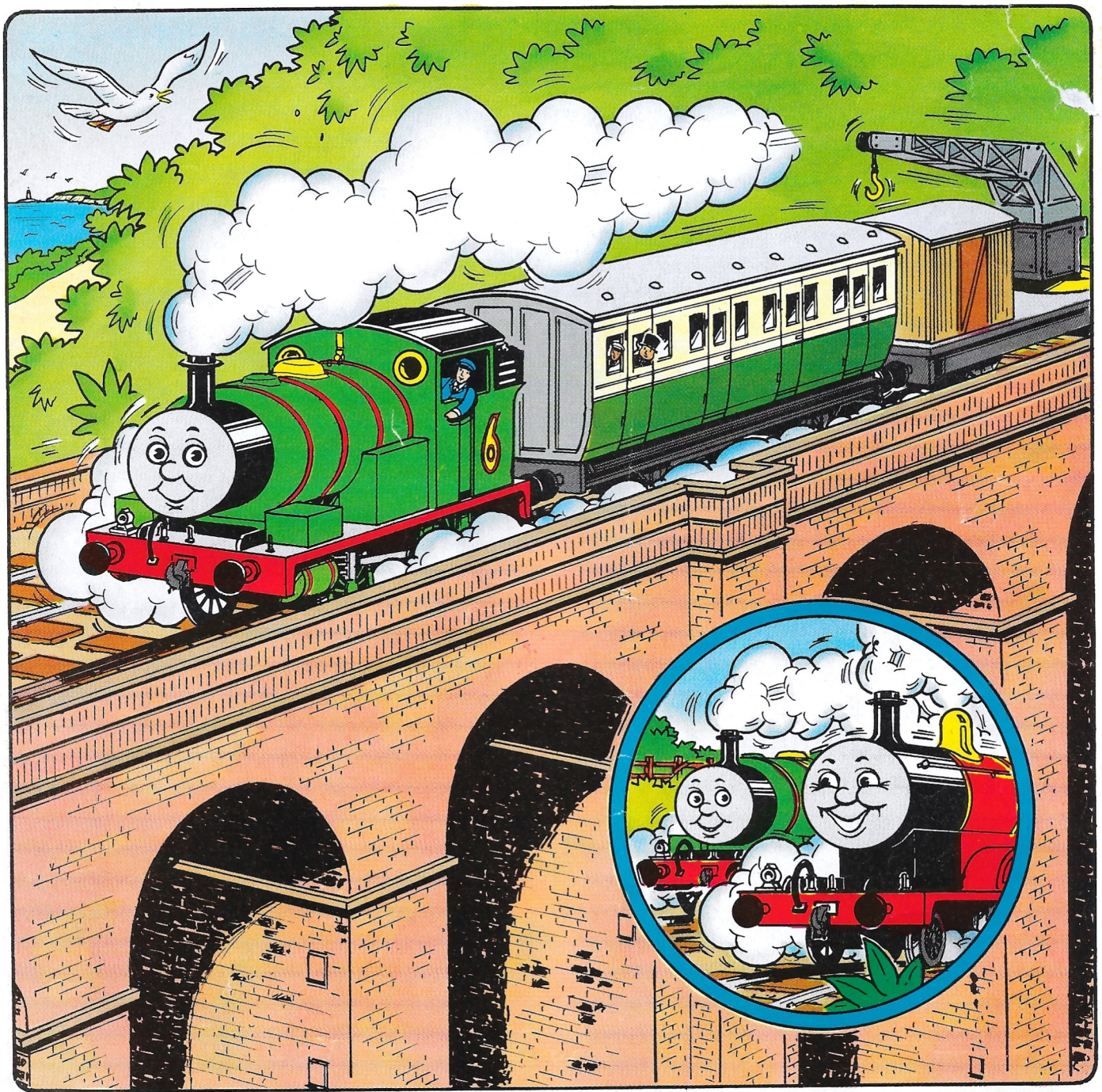


8. Later, James set off with some trucks from the Main Station yard. "I don't see what the fuss is about!" he said. "You're just a scaredy-buffers, Percy!"



9. James steamed along the newly-opened line and across the viaduct. But as he rounded the bend his load shifted and one of the trucks came off the line.

10. James's driver shut off steam and applied the brake. Then he ran to get help. At the Main Station yard, the Fat Controller called Percy.



11. "James needs help!" said the Fat Controller. "There's been a derailment! It's an emergency!" Percy was the only engine available so he was coupled to the breakdown train. With the Fat Controller and engineers aboard, Percy hurried to the viaduct. He was so worried about James he forgot to be frightened.

12. The strong wind shook him but Percy steamed bravely on until he came to the derailed truck. "I thought James had fallen off the viaduct!" gasped Percy. "I'm all right, but my trucks are in trouble," said James. "I'm sorry I called you a scaredy-buffers, Percy." "I'm not scared now, thanks to you," grinned Percy.

THE END

In our next issue: Roof repairs!